

JOHN ALEX McCONE
612 SOUTH FLOWER STREET
LOS ANGELES 90017

Executive Registry

69-6215

December 15, 1969

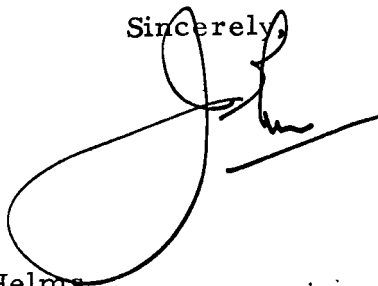
Dear Dick:

The attached from Al Weinberg,
Director of Oak Ridge, and my response
need no elaboration.

I suggest you have someone brief Al
on your latest analyses. As you know, Weinberg
has a facility for making speeches and I don't
think the matter raised in his letter should
be the subject of one of his speeches unless
he has the facts.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,



enc

Mr. Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

bb

EXECUTIVE

McCone

JOHN ALEX McCONE
612 SOUTH FLOWER STREET
LOS ANGELES 90017

December 15, 1969

Dear Al:

This letter will acknowledge receipt of yours of December 10th in which you bring up the very important subject of Civil Defense.

I cannot give you the current intelligence estimates on the Soviet Civil Defense program and their current level of expenditures to support or expand Civil Defense facilities and activities. I do know that several years ago when I was in the C. I. A., we made an in depth study of the Soviet Civil Defense program and found that the level of Soviet effort had been overstated. Several activities and facilities which were attributed to Civil Defense (by our own Civil Defense protagonists) proved upon analysis to be something totally unrelated to Civil Defense. We, therefore, were inclined to downgrade the Soviet Civil Defense effort.

I am passing your letter on to Dick Helms. The question you raised is a most important one. I am suggesting that Helms have someone in his organization communicate directly with you.

With warm personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alvin M. Weinberg
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Post Office Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

cc: Mr. Richard Helms✓

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

OPERATED BY
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
NUCLEAR DIVISION



POST OFFICE BOX X
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

Office of the Director

December 10, 1969

Mr. John A. McCone
Joshua Hendy Corporation
612 South Flower Street
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear John:

I am writing to you because I have become very troubled about an extremely serious matter about which you might be able to help. I know that when you were head of CIA it was your foresight and prudence that avoided catastrophe in the Cuban Missile Crisis, and I suspect that you still (now that the Republicans are in office again) carry weight in CIA.

As you know, we have been conducting a Civil Defense Study here with the close cooperation of Professor Eugene P. Wigner. In the course of our study we have been obliged to read the open Russian literature on civil defense at considerable length. The impression we get from studying this literature is that the Soviet Union takes civil defense far more seriously than do we. Our estimates suggest that the Soviet Union is now spending around \$10 per person per year as compared to our own 35¢ per person per year. The apparent disparity seems to me to be serious if it is as real as it appears.

What I would like to ask is whether in the first place you are aware of this apparent gross disparity; second, if the disparity is indeed as serious as it appears; and third, whether, if indeed it exists, this has been called to the attention of the highest authorities in our own country. I need not explain to you that a serious asymmetry in any of the elements of national security between the United States and the Soviet Union could upset the present balance. I'm making the inquiry because of the evidence we seem to have of such a discrepancy; whereas everybody else sees no such discrepancy. I would feel uncomfortable had I not done whatever I could,

Mr. John A. McCone

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December 10, 1969

either to call this discrepancy to the attention of the proper authorities,
or contrariwise to be assured that this apparent asymmetry is not real.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Alvin

Alvin M. Weinberg

AMW:pl

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TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE
1	The Director	
2		
3	D.D. / S. T.	
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ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks: <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;"> 17-3 Please handle as you think fit. </div>		
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